

Inventor : Dong
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

(Amendments are illustrated by showing deletions by ~~striking through~~ or [[double bracketing]] and additions by underlining)

1. At page 1, lines 2-8, please replace the existing text with the following:

--Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation of U.S. application No. 09/857,636, filed November 2, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,903,186, which is a National Phase filed under 35 U.S.C. 371 of International Application No. PCT/EP99/09660, filed December 7, 1999, ~~and a continuation in part of U.S. Application No. 09/206,601, filed December 7, 1998, now abandoned~~, which claims the benefit of U.S. Application No. 60/111,255, filed December 7, 1998, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.--